



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Spencer Gross, 241-4584

October 20, 2010

Public Environmental Survey Highlights Local Concern About Environmental Issues

Each year, the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) surveys residents in communities adjacent to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR). This survey is conducted to learn about any concerns regarding environmental cleanup activities currently underway or cleanup activities that need to be addressed by DOE's Environmental Management (EM) program.

The "Public Environmental Survey" is mailed to about 800 area residents and is also distributed at various locations and at presentations ORSSAB's Public Outreach Committee provides to community groups.

This year's survey was conducted during July and August, prior to the board's annual planning retreat. The survey results were provided to ORSSAB members for their consideration in developing the board's work plan for FY 2011, which began October 1.

The following issues garnered first, second, third, and fourth places respectively from the 230 survey respondents. First, 24 percent of respondents stated that their leading concern is long-term stewardship of radioactive contamination and waste placed at the EM program's disposal facility located in Bear Creek Valley. Second, 22 percent of respondents identified the need for continued and/or expanded groundwater monitoring and continued actions that will reduce the ability of contamination to migrate away from DOE property, and third, 17 percent of respondents noted their support for demolition of several hundred buildings at the Y-12 National Security Complex and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Another 10 percent selected economic development at the East Tennessee Technology Park.

Rounding out the results was:

- Historic preservation (8 percent)
- Educating students and the public about the DOE's ORR history, and site contamination (7 percent)
- Cleanup of the Bear Creek Burial Grounds (7 percent)
- Transportation of radioactive and chemically contaminated waste on public roads and highways (6 percent)

The survey is available and can be submitted any time through the board's website at www.oro.doe.gov/em/ssab/publicsurvey.htm.

NEWS RELEASE

Page 2

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board meets at the DOE Information Center, 475 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, Tenn., at 6 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. The public is welcome to attend and an open comment period is provided. For additional information, visit www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab or call the support office at 865-241-4583 or 241-4584.

###